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UNCLAS HARARE 001820

SIPDIS

AIDAC

AID FOR DCHA RWINTER, WGARVELINK
DCHA/FFP FOR LLANDIS, JBRAUSE, DSKORIC
DCHA/OFDA FOR MCCONNELL, SKHANDAGLE, MMARX
AFR FOR CNEWMAN, MWILLIAMS, CWTAGELMAN, KPOE, MCOPSON
STATE FOR AF, PDAS BELLAMY, AND AF/S SDELISI, MRAYNOR
NSC FOR JDWORKIN AND SENIOR DIRECTOR FRAZER
USDA FOR MCHAMBLISS
NAIROBI FOR RSENYKOFF, PRILEY AND FAS FKESSEL
MAPUTO FOR SBLISS
LUSAKA FOR KNEGASH, HGUNTHER
LILONGWE FOR DSMITH
PRETORIA FOR KFICKENSCHER AND FAS RHELM
GABORONE FOR JDORMAN
ROME FOR FODAG

E.O 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAID](#) [EAGR](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [ZI](#)

SUBJECT: AGREEMENT ON USE OF U.S. TITLE II MAIZE GRAIN IN ZIMBABWE

THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST. SEE PARA 4.

11. (U) SUMMARY OF AGREEMENT: VERBAL AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED AMONG USAID, WORLD FOOD PROGRAM (WFP) AND GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE (GOZ) ON AN ARRANGEMENT THAT WILL ALLOW ENTRY OF 17,500 MTS OF USG YELLOW WHOLE MAIZE GRAIN CURRENTLY STORED IN DURBAN, THAT MAY CONTAIN GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO), TO ENTER ZIMBABWE FOR THE BENEFIT OF WFP BENEFICIARIES SUFFERING FROM THE CURRENT FOOD SECURITY CRISIS. THE AGREEMENT CALLS FOR A ONE-TO-ONE SWAP OF US-DONATED (GMO) WHOLE KERNEL MAIZE WITH GOZ-IMPORTED (NON-GMO) WHOLE KERNEL MAIZE THAT IS ALREADY IN COUNTRY. THE FORMER WOULD BE MILLED BY GOZ AND MARKETED BY THEIR GRAIN MARKETING BOARD (GMB), AND THE LATTER WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED AS GRAIN BY WFP TO ITS BENEFICIARIES IN USAID-MARKED BAGS. THIS ARRANGEMENT RESOLVES THE IMPASSE CREATED BY GOZ CONCERNS THAT GMO GRAIN COULD POTENTIALLY "CONTAMINATE" LOCAL MAIZE SEED VARIETIES. THE AGREEMENT ALSO AVOIDS THE NEED FOR EITHER PARTY TO PAY FOR THE EXTRA MILLING COSTS THAT OTHERWISE WOULD HAVE BEEN NECESSARY.

12. (U) DETAILS OF SWAP: AGREEMENT CALLS FOR A ONE-TO-ONE SWAP OF GOZ-IMPORTED WHOLE MAIZE GRAIN FOR USAID-DONATED YELLOW WHOLE MAIZE GRAIN. THE USAID MAIZE CURRENTLY STORED IN DURBAN WOULD BE BAGGED IN DURBAN PORT USING GOZ-PROVIDED BAGS, AND DELIVERED TO GMB DEPOT IN GWERU. GMB WOULD IMMEDIATELY MILL IT UPON RECEIPT AND DISTRIBUTE THROUGH ITS NORMAL MARKETING CHANNELS. THE GOZ-IMPORTED MAIZE WOULD BE BAGGED (AT GOZ COST) IN USAID-MARKED BAGS (BROUGHT IN FROM DURBAN BY THE WFP), AND COLLECTED BY WFP FROM GMB DEPOTS IN THE HARARE AREA FOR DISTRIBUTION TO ITS BENEFICIARIES.

13. (U) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING: A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) AMONG USAID, WFP AND GOZ HAS BEEN DRAFTED (BY WFP AND USAID) AND SENT TO FFP/W FOR WASHINGTON REVIEW. THIS MOU PROVIDES MUCH DETAIL ABOUT THE LOGISTICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SWAP AND BAGGING ARRANGEMENTS, AS WELL AS DETAILED COMMODITY QUALITY STANDARDS THAT MUST BE MET BY BOTH PARTIES.

14. (U) RECOMMENDATION FOR ACTION: POST ENDORSES THIS AGREEMENT AS A WIN-WIN RESOLUTION THAT WILL HELP USAID AND WFP TO MEET THE URGENT FOOD NEEDS OF MILLIONS OF POOR RURAL ZIMBABWEAN HOUSEHOLDS, WHILE ALLAYING GOZ CONCERNS REGARDING POTENTIAL GMO CONTAMINATION OF LOCAL MAIZE VARIETIES. POST REQUESTS WASHINGTON TO PROVIDE ITS CONCURRENCE FOR THIS PROPOSED SWAP URGENTLY. ONCE CONCURRENCE RECEIVED, POST WILL REQUEST WFP TO IMMEDIATELY INITIATE PLANS TO SEND A LIMITED QUANTITY (NO MORE THAN 800 MTS) TO ZIMBABWE AS AN INITIAL TRANCHE.

WHITEHEAD